



MONTEREY NEWS

MARCH 1997
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THE TOWN

Sheffield Calls The Hand On School Vote. Sheffield has called a special Town Meeting on February 24 to vote on the two proposals for adjusting the Southern Berkshire School District's failure to comply with the U.S. 14th Amendment requirement of the one person/one vote.

The lawsuit filed by Sheffield against the other four district towns has been put on hold, giving the towns an opportunity to vote at regular annual town meetings on the two proposals and possibly achieve the required unanimous agreement on one of the two.

However, this possibility has become increasingly remote. Neither camp has budged in its position. Sheffield has maintained that if their proposal of weighted voting, which would more accurately represent its population, is not accepted, they will continue legal action. The Alford/Egremont plan, known as the Alford compromise, calls for district-wide voting with residency requirements and some degree of weighted voting, which would improve Sheffield's and Monterey's representation but also insure that Sheffield would not have an automatic majority vote.

Since Sheffield is voting before the other towns, the only way to avoid the lawsuit and a decision rendered by the court is for all towns to vote in agreement with the Sheffield vote. If the Sheffield community agrees with its Select Board, it will vote in favor of weighted voting. And since it seems unlikely that the other

towns will unanimously vote for that position - already twice defeated - and the composition of the school committee



MAGGIE LEONARD

cannot be changed without unanimous agreement, a court case seems inevitable.

Weevils at Lake Garfield Accepted. The Select Board has agreed to accept the Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) Lake and Pond Grant Proposal, which will introduce weevils that feed on Eurasian Water Milfoil into the east end of Lake Garfield (see the April News for more on this program). This location was chosen because that end of the lake is less disturbed by motorized boating and beach traffic.

Correction. A correction to the Monterey News February story on this proposal is that this \$1500 grant is totally funded by the DEM, not partially by the Town.

Monterey Land Preservation. Anne E. Vickerman, widow of the late Harry O. Vickerman, and son Tom signed a conservation restriction, presented on January 13 by Peter Vallianos of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust, which will prevent their approximately 17 acres on Main Road from being subdivided,

Massachusetts' Building Code Revision. The Massachusetts Building Code has been revised by a 6th edition, effective February, 1997.

A grace period allows the old code to remain in effect for 6 months, after which it will be obsolete. Those planning to build or remodel and contractors may call the regulations board at 617-727-3200 for further details. Copies of the 6th edition may be purchased at the State House Book Store - 413-784-1376

for about \$40. Gordon Bailey, a state building inspector with the Department of Public Safety from the Pittsfield District Office recently updated the Select Board on certification requirements for building inspectors. Bailey says that a building inspector's job is a minimum 12-15 hour work week, not including extensive course work and testing required. It is for this reason Monterey's interim inspector Tom Gillis has declined taking the job as permanent inspector. He told the Board on February 3 that family commitments prevent his taking such a time consuming job. He did, however, agree to stay on as interim until a replacement is hired. Bailey also supplied the Board with examples of building-permit forms. The Board has already determined that Monterey's permit form is inadequate. In his report January 29 at the Quarterly Boards Meeting, Gillis summed up the new code as tediously detailed but a vast improvement in terms of safer and more uniform building standards throughout the state. The 6th edi-

tion, he said, is going to be gospel. In the past, standards have been arbitrarily set by building inspectors. He also said that anyone planning to hire help for a home project should check with an insurance agent to have the proper coverage for workman's compensation and/or medical expense. Such coverage is possible to obtain for as short a time as one day.

Miscellany. Arnold A. Hayes is the unanimous choice of the Board for the position of Care of Soldiers' Graves for a term ending June 30, 1997. Linda Thorpe of the Cemetery Committee will be his assistant.

Contractor Chris Dunlop discussed trim colors for Town Offices, which will be painted this spring. It's going to be in excellent taste (editorial opinion).

Jane Black

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RABIES CLINIC

The Monterey Fire Department is again sponsoring a rabies vaccination clinic for both dogs and cats on March 22 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the fire house. A fee of \$9 will be charged. The town clerk will issue Monterey dog licenses for 1997 at the clinic, at \$4 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$10 for non-spayed/non-neutered dogs. Current tags expire March 30.

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MONTEREY VETERANS MEMORIAL

The final listing of names to be inscribed on the WWII, Korea and Vietnam memorials will be printed in April's *Monterey News*. There are 175 Monterey veterans from these wars. Funds are still needed for this memorial, which will be dedicated over the July 4 weekend. Please send your generous donations to the Monterey Town Treasurer, checks payable to the Monterey Veterans Memorial.

In addition to these wars, there will be two more steels (or memorials) placed in the Monterey Veterans Memorial Park listing veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

Thanks in advance from the Committee:

Dean P. Amidon, Chair
Frank D'Amato, Arnold Hayes,
Georgiana O'Connell, Raymond Tryon

MEETING ON THE FATE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

A tentative date of March 14, at 7:30 p.m., at the fire house, has been set for the Monterey Democratic Committee to host an informative meeting of County Commissioners. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the restructuring of county government and how Berkshire County's towns and cities will be affected by possible changes. State Representative Christopher Hodgkins and State Senator Andrea Nuciforo will participate in a forum about the function of county government, and the consequences which may result if the state assumes the responsibilities of county government. All residents of the county and the League of Women Voters are invited to this meeting. Mel Dyer-Bennet, Monterey Democratic Town Chair, emphasizes that this meeting is for information, not politics. Mark Makuc, Republican Town Committee Chair, has been invited to participate in the leadership of the meeting.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs with the Department of Medical Assistance is sponsoring a Senior Pharmacy Program. Through this program, eligible elders may receive up to \$500.00 per year for certain prescription drugs. Funding for the \$30 million program will come from an increase in the cigarette tax.

To be eligible for the program, individuals must be age 65 or older and a resident of the state for the last six months, cannot be enrolled in the Med-

icaid program or have drug coverage from a supplemental health policy (Medigap or HMO plan) or any other third party payer, and must not have an income greater than \$13,691.00 per year. The open enrollment period is scheduled for February and March. There will be an annual enrollment fee of \$15.00. Co-payment amounts will be \$3.00 for generic drugs/medical supplies and \$10.00 for brand name drugs/medical supplies. For further information, call Terry Koldys at the Claire Teague Senior Center in Great Barrington: 528-1881

Pauline F. Nault

PBS VISITS GOULD FARM FOR TV SPECIAL

Comfortably shy, intentionally removed -- Gould Farm has long been known by friends as the best-kept secret in mental health care. Little more than word-of-mouth has kept the place full for 84 years. It was only a matter of time before the right words from the right mouths would lead to national attention.

In late January -- typically a month to regroup and lay long-range plans -- Gould Farm accepted an invitation from Bill Mosher, executive producer of *The Visionaries*, to be filmed for a 1/2-hour PBS documentary. Practicing "positive television programming," *The Visionaries* features the work of small, nonprofit organizations and discovers the magic that occurs when one human being helps another. Gould Farm had been chosen for the 26th episode from among 3000 applicants. Within weeks of Mr. Mosher's first phone call, his four-member production crew had settled themselves into our routines and prepared us to begin talking about ourselves.

For one week we went about our chores in the eye of the camera, washing dishes, shoveling manure, scraping compost, singing in morning meeting all groggy and sleepy-eyed as usual. Are you sure you want THAT shot?, we'd wonder. Did he just say THAT on national television?, we'd cringe. Guests and staff members shared very personal stories about learning to live with mental illness. We stammered to learn the foreign language of television-speak as we prepared each scene. Except for one cow (another story altogether), we were on our best behavior -- if a bit stiff. We became comfortable as the crew members succeeded in fitting into our close-knit lifestyle.

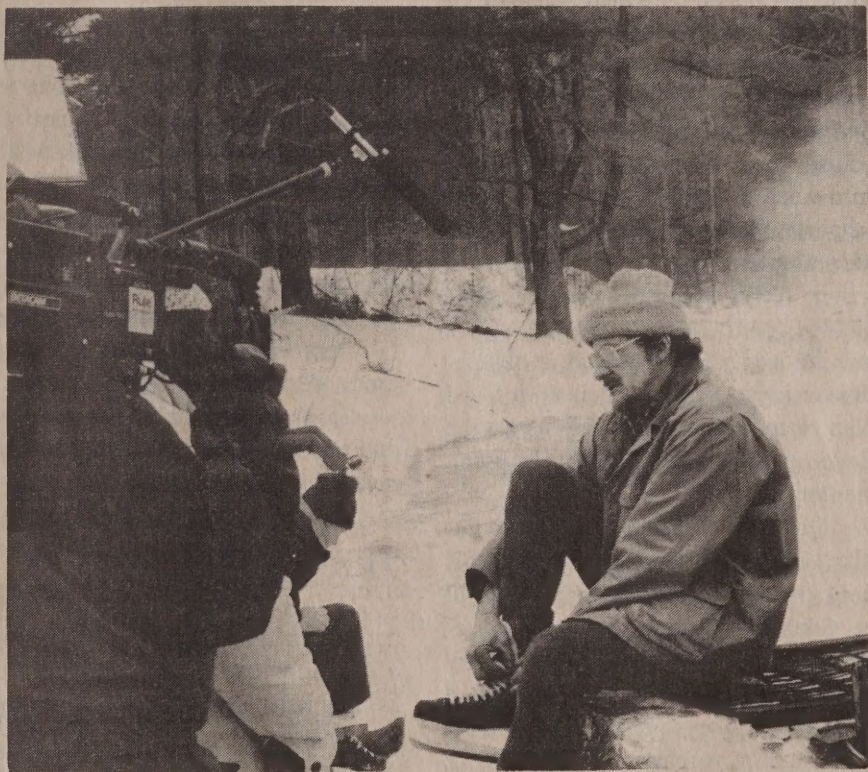
The week ended with a community ice skating party, the cameras scooting along after us dodging hockey sticks and unpredictable, snowsuited four-year-olds. We all gathered for a group photo to cap it off, and it felt good to be done. But when the well-worn camera crew headed back to Boston, it was obvious that the work we'd started wasn't done. We had just spent an entire week listen-

ing to each others' stories for hours at a time without interruption, learning how we felt about our own roles and about Gould Farm itself. Without doubt, we learned more about ourselves than the film crew did; now these discoveries would be a part of our work together. Just like two people who travel cross-country by compact car, we forged new

bonds, new responsibilities to and for each other.

By the good graces of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (the show's sponsor), Gould Farm will be featured on more than 175 public television stations nationwide and viewed by 16 million Americans later this year. Word-of-mouth just got a foot up.

Kim Hines



"Visionaries" crew filming and interviewing Wayne Burkhardt at Gould Farm.

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AN INVITATION

Readers of the *Monterey News* are well aware that we will celebrate the town's 150th anniversary with events, memorials, parades, and parties throughout next summer, culminating in a festive three-day weekend at the beginning of August.

We will also publish a lively book of Monterey history in magazine format, a document of our own times here as well as an account of times past. Peter Murkett is editor, with Kim Hines as production editor, and Ian Jenkins, managing editor. A few of the historical subjects to be treated in depth are education, farming, the Monterey General Store, the Monterey Grange, and our summer community. Writers have begun combing the archives and talking to neighbors. We have already gathered one group of long-time residents to record their stories, and plan more such visits to help us get the flavor of Monterey life within living memory.

Qualified historians will write authoritative articles of some length for this book, but throughout the text there will be sidebars, photographs, artwork, reproduced documents, and contemporary advertisements. We want to produce a book that conveys present perspectives in recounting our past, and embodies our hopes for the future. There will be room in the publication—as there is in Monterey—for many lives, diverse people sharing a place, making it home.

We want you to help us out. Raid your attic, photo album, and file drawer for whatever you think belongs in such a book. Perhaps you have family letters or journals, parts of which can illuminate what was once routine. Do you have a scrapbook of clippings related to events in Monterey? Do you know significant dates which might guide our archival

research in regional newspapers?

There are many possible subjects for stories: Tryon's Tea Room, the summer camps, inns, and boarding houses, sporting events, the old creamery, the golf course, the library, and so on. Some of you might provide perspective on local political episodes of recent decades, such as the establishment of the regional school district, the advent of zoning, or the Route 23 bypass. Our ability to develop any story depends on the material we can gather. This book is for everyone who knows and loves Monterey. Please send me any information you think will be useful, at P. O. Box 324, Monterey 01245. Call me at 413-528-3454 if you have questions. Be sure to make copies of documents that have personal value, so nothing irreplaceable will be accidentally lost or damaged. We will, of course, credit all material used in the book.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to joining everyone in celebration next summer.

— Peter Murkett

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

As a compliment to the scheduled activities of the celebration of Monterey's 150th Anniversary, The Bidwell House is organizing an exhibit of vintage clothing owned and worn by residents of Monterey. We are looking for temporary loans of 18th and/or 19th century clothing that can be documented. (The more documentation the better. For example; you may have a wedding dress that you

know was worn by a great-great grandmother who was from Monterey. More documentation might be the date of the wedding, the fact that it was held in the church at the center of town, a photo, etc.) Hopefully, the exhibit will include representative clothing of women, men, and children, both dress clothes and work clothes.

The exhibit will run for one month, spanning the first weekend of August. Each object will be treated as a temporary loan to the museum and great care will be taken both in transporting and exhibiting the items.

Please check your attics or give a call to relatives that may have vintage clothes from your family. If you have any appropriate items to exhibit as part of the Anniversary Celebration of Monterey, please call me at 528-6888.

Museum activities for March will include a focus on starting the Heirloom Garden. A cold frame, based on a 19th century design from The Shaker Garden Manual, has been built next to the garden. According to tradition, the frame will be set on a 4 foot high bed of manure which will supply the heat for new seedlings. By mid-March, the first planting will be started. Vegetables include 18th Century Red Drumhead and Jersey Wakefield Cabbage, White Portugal onions and Henry lettuce. The seedlings will be transplanted into the garden when the weather warms up.

Anita Carroll-Weldon

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MEMORIAL DAY/150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PARADE

While historically the Select Board has organized and coordinated our towns' beloved annual Memorial Day parade, it was their hope on this Anniversary year, "to enhance it somewhat." Thus our committee was formed and, working by their side, has already enjoyed its first few spirited meetings, chock full of idea-tossing and assignment delegating. We already have a parade theme- *Past, Present and Future*- and we even have a three page parade line-up all mapped out!

The integrity of our town's traditional Memorial Day commemoration must be preserved, and thus that part of the parade will remain in tact. There will still be hot dogs and cold drinks for everyone! Due to the energy of our committee and to the very positive and inspiring response we have received from so many of you, we seem to be well on our way toward Enhancement with a capital E! There are even post-parade plans in the works!

Many of you have volunteered to organize or work on floats, or have offered us ideas and time and energy in some other way. But we still need lots and lots of help, and we invite others to please do the same! We need you so that on May 26th, at this kickoff event to our town's 150th Anniversary celebration, we might look back together at some of

our shared history and colorful Past, and we might look forward together, with vision and promise, to our Future. But most importantly, so that we might celebrate our Present together as a family. Let's make this one of the best darned days this old town has ever seen. Please give any committee member or Select Board member a call, and offer us your ideas and your energy. Together we can have ourselves some fun and one heck of a community celebration!

Stephanie Grotz (528-4519)

THE SUMMER PARTY

Amidst the cold and gray wetness of our Berkshire winter, seeds of a summer of sesquicentennial celebration are growing. With 153 days until the Big Show, many committees and volunteers around town are firming up their plans.

The Memorial Day Parade committee (see accompanying article) is working with a historical theme. The steering committee plans to unveil a large banner across Rt. 23 during the Memorial Day Parade, strung between the General Store and the Tea Room. The banner will announce our 150th anniversary and be a subtle reminder of the Aug. 1-3 party.

The Veterans Committee will dedicate the new war memorial on July 4 weekend (names of veterans to be listed in April *News*). The fund-raising for the Memorial is independent of the sesquicentennial committee formed by the town, but the committee encourages all to contribute, and remember our veterans.

The celebration souvenir book (see "An Invitation" p.2) is moving forward, and though several mailing lists of businesses were used to generate advertising, Peter Murkett (editor) and Kim Hines (production editor) suspect that a number of potential advertisers were missed. The deadline for securing advertising space in the book is March 15. Call Kim Hines 528-6605 for more information.

Fun activities are already happening in anticipation of the celebration. Ballroom dance lessons will start on Saturday nights in March to get us ready for the gala semi-formal dance. Call Del Martin (528-9480) for more information.

A group is sewing a commemorative quilt which will be unveiled during the party weekend and hung in the town hall. Call Anita Carroll-Weldon (528-6888), of the Bidwell House, for information. Anita is also working with the Bigger Light Theater Company on an original production about the Bidwell Family.

Volunteers are still needed in all areas! Next month's *News* will contain the event coordinators, so you can sign up for what interests you.

Maureen Meier has submitted my favorite slogan: "Monterey, the heavenly headwaters of the Konkapot."

Ian Jenkins

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DAFFODIL DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

1997 Daffodil Days!! Having already had our strange winter, of cloudy, rainy and a bit of snowy weather, thoughts of spring flowers are surely uplifting. The American Cancer Society again offers cut daffodils, all tightly bundled-and ready to burst into your home to cheer you through "mud season". Ten blooms are \$5.00

Callers will be on the phone taking your orders between now and March 7th. Our workers are: Ruth Champigny, Carol Edelman, Linda Gero, Stephanie Grotz, Karen Hutson, Jack Jefferson, Maggie Leonard, Neil Orenstein and Cynthia Weber. New this year are Maureen Haugh, Janie Kessler, Debbie Mielke and Pat Schoonmaker. If you are missed call, Fran Amidon 528-1233. We don't intend to miss you. Please prepay your caller so that we don't impose that job on Maynard and Gayle who kindly distribute them for us, and to help our bookkeeping. Either check or cash is fine: checks are to be made out to the American Cancer Society. And remember to pick them up - somebody always forgets - on March 18th at the Monterey Store. Until then.

Fran Amidon, Chair

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.



MAGGIE LEONARD

SHEL - 'THE VENERABLE'

The day was rainy, windy, but the warmth, love and friendship of those attending the wake was obvious. Shel was holding court again. The total spray on the casket was of forest greens, so fragrant. Snuggled in the center were a fence and two tiny cows grazing. Other unique, original arrangements were from "Woodburn Boys," with Bea's bracelet in case nearby. Shel's poem, "My Church" was attached to another.

Shel, in "go-to-church" clothes lay among the bank of flowers. His nieces were there, the total family. Close friends were greeting guests. It felt funny to read the name above the guest book, "Sheldon

E. Fenn." Reality sets in.

The funeral home was packed with young and old, greeting each other with comforting hugs, reminiscing, and reflecting on Shel's positive attitude, constant interest in "His" world, his farm, friends and families, always up to date on national, town news and gossip.

We took turns kneeling by Shel to say personal farewells. Shel was 85, only two nieces for family. Yet all these throngs who came to pay their respects and show their loss - were each and every personally close to him. Rev. Keith Snow - a recent friend of Shel's - spoke of the multitude of stories being our heritage - and Oh my! - they were running rampant at the reception. Stories abounded! The

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around hay bales larger than I could carry, I began learning one of Shel's many principles or beliefs - work hard at whatever you do and take pride in even the simplest tasks. By the time Shel was forced into retirement I too was prepared to support the family needs. Thus the arrival of the family cow and a very large responsibility for my 13 young years. With his coaching and my family's help, that cow led me through many long school days and pushed me to attend a top notch agricultural university and ultimately to veterinary school. It was not an easy road but Shel supported me in many ways, always with his simple yet positive attitude. I swelled with joy when, on the day we buried him, I watched a videotaped interview and learned for the first time of his one time aspiration. I only now understand how happy Shel was when a couple of years ago I returned to his farm to donate some of my veterinary skills to the well being of his herd. Shel not only grew crops and trees, he also nurtured young boys into hard working productive men. I shall miss him for a long time to come

John D. Makuc, DVM

picnics, baked beans, hay rides, ball games, bonfire with Dean leading the "sing." And parties, the advice-casual, humorous, definite. Deer week, lunches, the always welcome feeling, warm fire, spare ribs dinner.

The group dwindled, the day was done. We went home with our private thoughts, only missing the Woodburn Institution that has gone, leaving us a heritage - positive thoughts of the past and future, strongly influenced by one Sheldon Fenn and his Bea. Fran Amidon

REMEMBERING "SHEL"

I still can clearly remember the day that I started working for Shel, I was only ten or eleven years old following him and his baler around a field on Barnum's Flats. Little did I know that I was beginning a friendship with a man who would influence my ultimate career goal. A goal which he himself had once contemplated yet he chose a different path because his family needs were more important.

Working up a sweat, one which I would repeat on many a hay day, pushing

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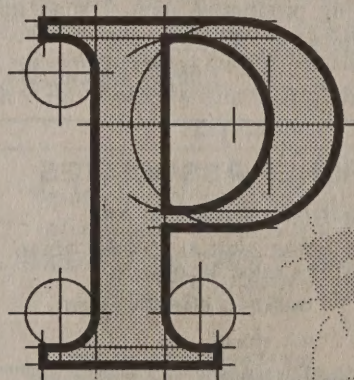
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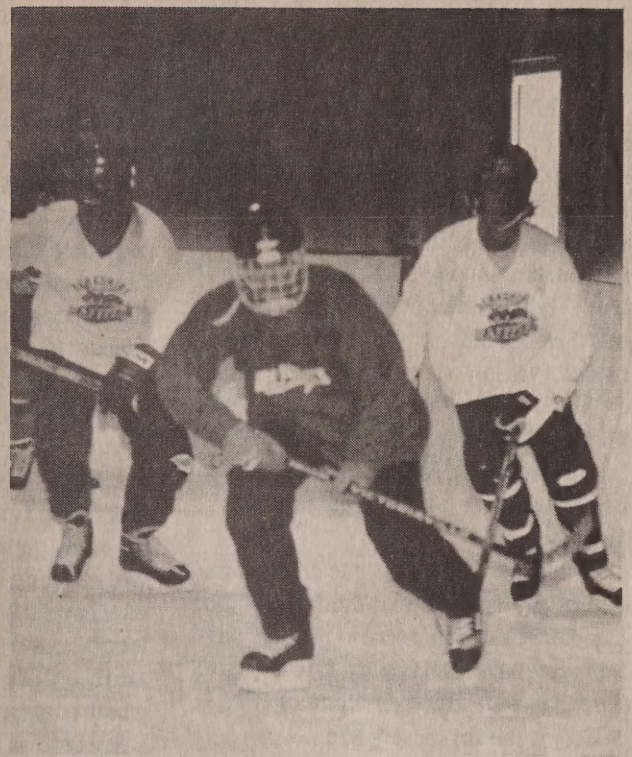
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SCENES FROM THE MONTEREY CUP:
MONTEREY'S OWN HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
 The Blue Hill Rangers took the day! Otis finished second. Note the former editor of the *Monterey News* grinning gleefully in last row, far left. Photos by Maggie Leonard.



THOSE TERRIBLE TELEMARKETERS

While dining with friends the other night the trials and tribulations of telemarketing arose in conversation. Being on the receiving end I mean. During the dinner hour the phone inevitably rings and someone asks for "Mary Leonard." No one except telemarketers calls me that. Fiendishly clever, I am in the habit of filling out certain forms with a childhood name that I never use so I will know if the person on the other end of the line is friend or foe. Perhaps foe is an overstatement, but at least this way I have the edge.

I realize that the people on the other end of the line are just doing their job. They probably have rent to pay, car payments to make, and twenty-five babies to feed. I assume that their telemarketing is merely a job for money and not the culmination of a lifelong dream. Continually conscious of karmic debt, I strive to be polite yet brief. The last thing I need in this life, or the next life, is to be stuck on the phone all day with people rudely barking at me. I don't know if we do come around again, but I'm not taking any chances.

My latest tactic with these mealtime marketeers is to pretend that I'm not home. "May I please speak to Mary Leonard?" a nasal voice requests. "I'm sorry she's not in" I reply. My husband pointed out, after one fumbled response, that I sound unconvincing. Too bad. If I run

into a sales person with enough chutzpah to call my bluff I'll deal with it.

I do agree that my response to this telephone onslaught is particularly unimaginative when compared with some other methods that I've heard about. One woman I know, upon hearing her name requested by a telemarketer, responds "Just a minute I'll go get her.", and then she never comes back to the phone. She swears by this technique because not only does it take up their time but it can tie up their phone line for several minutes.

Polite and politically correct, another friend explained that she interrupts the sales person and tells them that she will never do business over the phone. If they have information then they can send it to her, and she gives her address. I've also heard of people saying "He/She died" when confronted with a call, but this strikes me as too morbid.

Some folks are benefiting from this telemarketing frenzy. My boss has phone companies dueling over her business like rams in rutting season. She has cleverly pitted these companies against each other so that she gets some ridiculously low rate like 11 cents a minute to call anywhere in the world at any time. The last time she hung up the phone with that triumphant smile on her face I said "Don't tell me, let me guess. They're going to pay you now?"

Bargains aside, who among us has not had the annoying experience of dash-

ing to a ringing phone only to find that it's a sales call? This past summer I was outside during my lunch break and I heard the phone ringing. I leapt up, hurdled a chaise lounge, sprinted across the lawn, clearing the steps in a single bound, burned rubber on my sandals taking the corner and pounced on the phone by the third ring - only to hear Jessica from the Berkshire Eagle wondering if I received my paper today... and am I happy with my service? Panting, I tell her that everything is just dandy with the Eagle, thanks. The next day brings the same drill: outside for lunch, ring ring, kill myself to get to the phone and its the Eagle again. This time Larry wants to know if I have received my paper. I tell Larry that the paper is great and that someone called me about this yesterday and to please cross me off the list. A few minutes later I am outside when the phone rouses me once again from my peaceful picnic. There is simply no way to know if this is a client or not. I do my Olympic number to the telephone and its the Berkshire Eagle. Michael wants to know if my paper arrives o.k. and am I happy with the service? Poor unsuspecting Michael. He doesn't know that he is the proverbial straw and I am the camel and he has unwittingly broken the back of my usual good humor. He is told through clenched teeth that I think their newspaper is a worthy work of journalism that arrives in a punctual manner that the Swiss would envy. I go on to tell Michael with escalating emotion that their repeated queries regarding my satisfaction are resulting in extreme dissatisfaction, aggravated by shin splints and a stubbed toe. I add that it is Michaels mission in life, as I see it, to get me off that list. I am sure that I will go down in Berkshire Eagle history as their angriest satisfied customer.

Which reminds me of the time that AT&T called me and asked "What would you most like from your phone company?". I paused for a moment and then responded with the blunt truth: "To never hear from them again and I'd pay extra for the privilege." Silence at the other end, then the very smart salesperson said "Thank you for your time." and hung up.

Maggie Leonard

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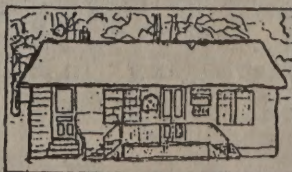
"The pancakes should be denoted by hubcap size

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-- Matthew Brewer, a Roadside regular

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PAPA'S SECRET

What would you say if I told you there was a secret that was known by "sixty million people"? Not a very good secret you'd say — though they've hidden it for most of their lives. If they feel secure enough, they might let their families or close friends know. That's how I found out what the secret was: I was part of the family. I kept the secret for over twenty years because I was embarrassed to tell people that my father could not read or write.

Illiteracy is about people who are afraid. They know how society will treat them if they are found out. Someone finds out the truth, and teases them if they are lucky, fires them if they are not. These are not worthless people, these are human beings who frequently have families to support. They are people who fall through the cracks - for whatever reasons - only to land on the bottom of the labor force or welfare.

If they are extremely lucky, they have a literate family who helps them maintain a semblance of a normal life. The eyes of the illiterate do not show his inability to read or write, but the stigma attached to his illiteracy affects everyone.

The effects of being illiterate show up in a number of ways. My father was a hard worker, a decent man who would give the shirt off his back not only to friends but to complete strangers if it would help them out. He was a smart man as well, who could fix anything with a motor, and he could tool his own parts for repair of industrial machinery. He needed to be smart to figure out the dimensions for whatever parts he was making. But the problem of not being able to read cost him his job as a machinist (which paid a better-than-average wage in the 1950s) because he could not read the orders for parts and the specifications needed to

make them.

It was a matter of bad feelings between my uncle and my father. They worked together. One day my uncle became fed up with my father and sabotaged the order he was supposedly reading to Papa. A few days later my father was called to the bosses office and was told how the mistake had cost the company a lot of money. When asked how the mistake had happened, my father told of his inability to read, and was fired on the spot.

My father lost more than his job that day, he also lost whatever confidence he had. After that my father would only work doing menial labor which paid far less than the wages of a machinist.

Another effect (at least in part) was the failure of his marriages. When his first wife divorced him, she told him the attorney would handle everything. The divorce papers stated that he would accept the responsibility for the welfare of her daughter, who was not his child, as well as their bills each month. It wasn't until after my mother married him, three years later, that she found out that he couldn't read. She had asked where the money he sent out each week went, and he explained the divorce decree. My mother found out that the attorney in question was the ex-wife's attorney — not his. My father, thinking the attorney represented him exclusively, had just signed the papers.

My mother then took over the role of being my father's scribe. When she left my father I was already grown, and I asked her why. She explained that she had nothing to talk with him about. If she read an interesting article she could not share it with him, and she was tired of reading things to him.

But perhaps worse than losing a job and two wives, was the day when his seven-year-old daughter asked him "Papa, what does this word say?" as she pointed to a word in the book she was reading. I will always remember the look on his face when he had to tell me he didn't know. I had never seen him cry before, but that day he had tears in his eyes. Quickly I told him it was all right, that I'd figure it out. I even offered to help him learn how to read. I do not know if my father was more humiliated, hurt or angry by my attempts to make everything all right.

My father was a good man and a good father. Many people were surprised to hear that he couldn't read. All those years he'd pretended that his eyes were bothering him - even to me.

E. Parsons

The Southern Berkshire Literacy Network offers classes in math, reading, and English as a Second Language. Phone 243-0471 for info or to volunteer. Look for a profile next month of a Monterey resident active in SBLN.



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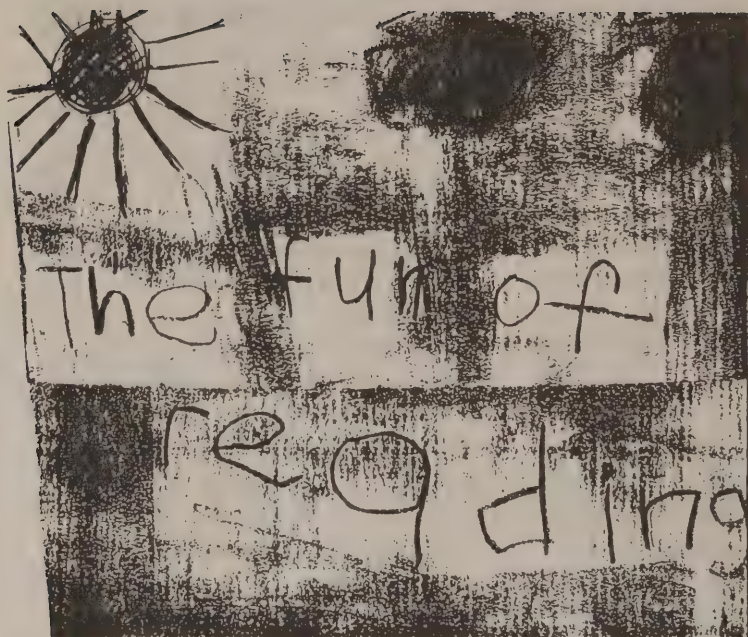
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Amanda Mathieu

CAGED BIRD

*A caged bird is anyone who is
shown freedom's door, then shot down.*

*A caged bird is anyone who fears a
dictator's wrath.*

*A caged bird is anyone who can't feel
the joys of their own flight.*

*A caged bird is anyone who looks down
on a buried dream because of someone
else's anger.*

*Let all the children of the world free
all the caged birds!*

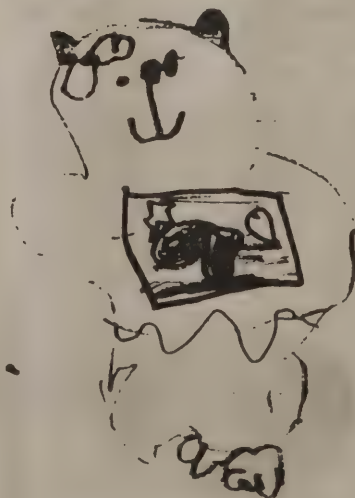
Ms. Guthrie's 6th Grade Class/
Undermountain Elementary
Inspired by Maya Angelou's poem
Caged Bird.

CONFUSION

*I want to talk,
But I don't.
And, What's there to talk about?
I want to tell,
But there's nothing to say.
And,
No one will listen.
I want to hug,
But my arms don't move right,
And,
There's no one to hug.
I want to cry,
But I can't,
Only the feeling is there,
Not the tears.
I want someone here with me,
But who?
I want to know,
But I don't.
I feel upset,
But I'm not.
I feel happy,
But I'm not.
I don't know why,
But I do.
I am so confused!*

Claire Mielke

BOOK A



Shelby Mathieu

THE RINGING OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH BELL

*With baseball cap turned backward round
And freckled face scrubbed gleaming,
The country boy pulls the bell rope.
Self-importantly he's beaming.
He pulls the rope as hard as he can
And flat on the floor he lies.
Then he's lifted off his feet
And like a kite he flies.
The church bell rings in the steeple
As up and down he goes.
In drift the village people
And he's lifted off his toes.
It makes them smile, he's so intent,
And the church has loved the show.
They like the energy he's spent
And note his face aglow.
It's a beautiful, peaceful, heartening thing
To hear the village church bell ring.*

Nancy Adams

MARCH IN THE BERKSHIRES

*While chill north winds wail down the chimney flue
And everything is blanketed in white
We watch the clouds play tag across the blue.
At the end of the day the sky's majestic hue
An artist would delight.
Soon now will come the long awaited spring;
The snow will disappear and green grass grow,
Across the fields the songs of birds will ring,
The air will no more have its frosty sting,
And streams will swiftly flow.
Small crocuses will lift their faces bright
Though snow still lingers on the wooded hill,
Young cowslip leaves unfold in morning light, And peepers' chorused
voices greet the night
When all around is still.*

Eleanor Kimberly

*I will give my dream
To a passing bird
So that he will sing
And my heart will be heard*

*All can listen
But only one will hear
The beating, beating
Of my love in the air.*

Lesley Givet

WEST OF IRELAND: ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT

Down in the water

a glittering heron stands

the darkling ribbons of the night

fall upon the sands

high fingerbones, the Standing Stones

command the moonlit strands

a child at Kilmakeldar sleeps

soft upon his hands

twice safe, Christpagan safe

from timeless times'

demands.

A.O.Howell

MOSES AMONG THE CATTAILS

Before I get started, extolling (and listing) the many handy and edible qualities of the ubiquitous cattail, I should point out that it's not just humans who have made such diverse use of this graceful wetlands plant. Cattails are also the best sort of habitat for all kinds of creatures, from the invertebrate anchors of the foodchain to the swimming mammals and amphibians right on up to all sizes of birds who swim, fly, and nest in the cattail marshes of the world.

Around here we are most conscious of the redwing blackbirds in our cattail swamps, and they will be returning before we know it, the males with their flashy shoulder patches and musical posturing, and the females with their sensible browns and greys and tenacious protection of nesting areas. There are pancake recipes, all the kinds of furniture, clothing, mats, spears, and such that people have made of cattails all over the world, and Moses isn't the only one who has found a safe haven among the bulrushes. Moses got scooped up and went off to fulfill his destiny among folks, but the animals are still snuggled into the swamp.

Cattails are reeds or rushes (bulrushes). Thoreau wrote of them in his Journals and called them Cooper's Reed, referring to their usefulness in the making of barrels. The long leaves were twisted together to make bands to hold the wooden staves of the barrel in place. Twisted cattail leaves were also used during Colonial times in this country to make padding for horses, to protect their necks from the rubbing of harness collars. Chippewa Indians made dolls and toys of cattail leaves and people in Africa use them for thatch, for screens, and for caulking in barrel-making. In New Zealand they have been used for making mats, pads, baskets, and socks, and in Central America and Mexico people have joined bundles of cattail leaves to make buoyant rafts.

Both of our common species of cattail produce woolly flower heads and these have been used to make quilts, diapers, torches, mattresses, pillows,

upholstery, and filling for baseballs and life jackets. As the list of indispensable cattail products grows, we see that it is a veritable department store of the ponds and riverbanks. We have all needed, at one time or another, a diaper, torch, mattress, etc., and though we perhaps have not fashioned these things from our cattail raw materials, it's nice to know we could.

Cattails are considered to be the most famous of all edible plants in the Northern Hemisphere. Young shoots can be pulled or cut in the spring when they are 4 to 16 inches long. The outer leaves can



be peeled away, showing a golden-yellow inner part which is wonderful to eat raw or in salads. In Russia these shoots are called "Cossack asparagus" and are an important potherb in some areas. Later in the summer, when the shoots are longer and tougher, they still can be cut, peeled, boiled, and served with butter and seasonings.

When the flower stalks form, they can be taken out of their outer sheaths and boiled, then eaten like slim ears of corn, by nibbling the flowers off the tough stalk. Cattail flowers are arranged with the male, pollen-bearing flowers on

the upper 4-8 inches of the stalk. This part is slim and yellow. Just below it is the familiar dark, thick section of female flowers, packed like thick velvet. This club-like arrangement has given rise to the name "Reedmace" because it has reminded people of a mace.

The tiny male flowers can be scraped off and added to soup for thickening. They can also be added to muffin, bread, biscuit, cookie or pancake recipes, replacing half the wheat flour. You can spread out these male flowers, with the pollen still contained in them, and dry them in a slow oven, then save them for later use.

When the leaves turn brown in the fall the roots are big and tasty. We have reached down below a cattail and broken off the thick roots, peeled them and munched on them raw. People like to boil or bake them, and some even extract the starch from the roots to make flour.

Having just sung the praises and detailed the household uses of the cattail, I now have to urge you not to go out to the swamps to partake of its bounty, or at least to do so only sparingly. Around here, and in many places all over the world, the cattail is struggling to maintain its hold on its niche, just like a lot of us. Its principal competitor, if you don't count human population explosion, is called "phragmites." Phragmites is undeniably beautiful, but that's about it, unless you are a thatcher or a woodwind musician. It makes poor wildlife habitat and is next to useless for pancakes. It grows so thick that Moses would never have been able to squeeze through to the shore. Pharaoh's daughter would not have been able to take a bath or even to scoop up water among the phragmites and many stories from Moses onwards would have turned out differently.

When we walk or drive by cattails we can dream of Cossack asparagus and boating on Lake Titicaca, but we should leave them standing for the redwing blackbird who is coming next month, our latter day Moses of the Reedmace, Bull-segg, Candlewick, Bulrush, Water-Torch, Nail-Rod, Flag-Tule, Blackamoor, and Queue de Chat.

Bonner J. McAllester

WILDLIFE SURVEY

From the roads. Our long succession of days at just below freezing temperatures has given the countryside the look of "old snow." We haven't had big storms, lately, but the small snows stay on and melt a little on sunny days so the humps and snowbanks get arounded glossy look. The early intimations of spring in mid-February are open brooks, open places in ponds where there is moving water, the appearance of yellow in the bark of willow twigs, and pink and red in the twigs of dogwood and osier.

Deer. On Feb. 9 a young buck, tangled in electric fence west of Town, was lucky to have Dale Duryea arrive on the scene. He was able to cut the wire where it looped around the deer's hind legs in a figure-eight. Fortunately the deer was reassured by Dale's calmness and there was no thrashing and kicking, which could have been very dangerous. When freed, the deer stood up, hesitated a moment, then trotted off at Dale's urging.

Deer are becoming an increasingly urban phenomenon here, and across the county. I have seen them at night bounding across lawns in Great Barrington, and Beryl McAllester saw five does there on Feb. 12 - in broad daylight - near Lakeview Road. She became aware of first one and then the others, browsing quietly in the undergrowth behind her daughter's house. They were not disturbed by observers in the window but attended to their diet of twigs and greenbriar. Kerry Kelley has seen Monterey deer several times in town behind Brookbend. There were two fami-

lies and the young ones were "playing like puppies," last summer.

An urban and a country coyote. Kerry also saw a coyote at Brookbend on Jan. 20 at 8:30 a.m. It came up from the river and walked calmly off to the east on Rt. 23, looking quite at home in town. Anna Duryea saw a good-sized coyote crossing Barnums's Flats in early February.

Red Fox. Dale has not seen many signs of red foxes lately and wonders if they are being somewhat displaced by coyotes. I did have a long view of a big male with a very bushy tail on Jan. 29 at 3:45 p.m. in the new clearing behind my house. He jumped the brook and nosed about the clearing, apparently looking for mouse tunnels under the snow. Then he headed off into the woods in the direction of my daughter's hen house. His fur was a beautiful fluffy red and his tail seemed unusually dark.

A Red Squirrel. There are so many gray squirrels about that they merely seem a nuisance in the bird feeder, but I haven't seen a red squirrel in a couple of years. One did approach the house on Feb. 10 about 8 a.m., acting very shy and moving so quickly it seemed more bird than mammal.

The Winter Birds. The usual population is very much in evidence: chickadees, juncos, titmice, nuthatches, mourning doves, bluejays appear in the feeder, crows and ravens in the distance. Both downey and hairy woodpeckers are there every day for the suet. Rarer visitors were a white throated sparrow and a purple finch on Feb. 4. There have been small flocks of goldfinches, and these are beginning to transmute some of their

lead color into gold as early spring approaches. On the night of Feb. 12 a barred owl hooted for a strenuous quarter-hour at about 11:00 p.m. near Dowd Corner. Dale Duryea has been seeing some turkeys lately. He thinks they have been foraging out of sight in the high hills. Four elegant males, iridescent in the sunlight, crossed Blue Hill Road about 2:00 p.m. on Feb. 15th.

David P. McAllester

STEFAN GROTZ

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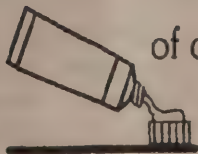
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MONTEREY AND THE CHURCH

AFTER 1850

In 1850 the new Meeting House looked out on the main thoroughfare between Great Barrington and Otis—a dirt road, traveled by ox carts and horse wagons. Opposite the church was Wilbur C. Langdon's store and next to that the saw mill situated on the Konkapot where the library now stands. Farther on down the Konkapot was a woolen mill and Griswold and Hamlin's paper mill. The Meeting House had a dominant position in the growing village, and was a much needed central meeting place for community organizations as well as the congregation. The

South Tyringham Temperance Society, for example, began to meet in the basement of the new Meeting House in 1848, even before the building was dedicated.

At the time, Monterey had a population of 761 souls, most of whom were in farming and dairying, working as farmers, farm laborers, or housekeepers. The principal crops grown were Indian corn, oats, and rye; many farms also made maple sugar. But Monterey also had a modicum of manufacturing. In addition to lumber, wool, and paper, there was a cotton twine factory operated by Levi Gibbs and Frederick D. Ingersoll. Bone comb making was another enterprise, engaging at least seven men. The town also had its share of artisans who served the farms and small businesses. Three carpenters, two shoemakers, a cabinet maker, two mechanics, an ax maker, two tailors, a tanner, three machinists, two

wagon makers, and three blacksmiths plied their trades in the area, some in addition to farming.

The town was a promising place and attracted newcomers from far and wide. One of the blacksmiths, young Albert Tryon, was just such a newcomer. Tryon and his wife Florilla (Smith) and their young daughter Alice moved to Monterey



from Connecticut sometime in 1848 or 1849. Albert was about 27 at the time of their relocation and he soon opened a blacksmith shop in the lower level of the dairy barn [now converted to apartments] just behind the Meeting House on the road to Tyringham. Shortly after settling in Monterey, Florilla bore a son who died in infancy, but over the next 10 years their family grew and prospered. Another daughter, Ida, was born in 1851, Delmor Clarence, grandfather of Dick Tryon came in 1856, and Bert Eugene, the grandfather of the Ray Tryon, arrived in 1860.

The Albert Tryons made their home in the house directly behind the Meeting House, adjacent to Albert's forge, and began putting down roots. Using his single-fire forge and one assistant, George Hopper, a Dutchman from New York, Albert did all sorts of repairs and manu-

factured live stock shoes. By 1860, his production reached 1500 horse shoes and 1600 ox shoes. Over the years the Tryons developed their home into a hotel, an enterprise their sons took over when Albert and Florilla got on in years. Bert and his family acquired the house across from the Langdon store and settled there in 1886, while Delmor and his family ran

the hotel and the dairy next door. Alice married and moved away, and Ida, who did not marry, taught school.

By the 1850s, Monterey was attracting families like the Tryons as well as laborers from other parts of the United States and the world. The settlers included seven African-American families from

various states: William and Sarah Jackson and their two sons came from New York State, as did John and Sally Jackson and their two daughters; Vitorus Williams came from Connecticut; Isaiah Adams came from Maryland. The other black families had their roots in Massachusetts. Other settlers were immigrants from the British Isles. Francis and Isaac Loom, English comb makers, probably worked for Eliad Bishop, a comb maker from Connecticut. James Houston, a young Scottish tailor, lived in the Wilbur Langdon household. Ebenezer Grant, a Scottish woolen weaver, and his wife Agnes and four children had their own home. Fleeing famine-racked Ireland, fourteen young single Irish men and women, perhaps more, worked as laborers and servants in the households of Monterey's more prosperous farmers and business people in 1850. Other Monterey-

ans took in whole families of Irish immigrants. The Gordon Langdon household, for example, housed Mary Cottland, an Irish widow with five children. By 1855 the town's population reached 823, not be equaled again until the 1990s.

In 1854, Samuel Howe, the pastor who had overseen the building of the new Meeting House, moved on and the Congregational Church called a new minister, Winthrop Henry Phelps. Phelps was 36 at the time, and came from New York with his wife, Lucy, and their children. After Phelps left in 1861, a long line of clergymen served the church for relatively short periods of time. Maintaining a full-time pastor proved difficult for the church during the Civil War and the depression of the 1870s.

The Civil War came right to Monterey's doorstep as its men were drawn into military service. At least 67 men from Monterey served in the Civil War, an astonishing number when one considers that the town's population was 758 in 1860. The town bore considerable expense to pay soldiers and aid their families. The women in town worked throughout the war to provide clothing and other articles for the military. Monterey men served in eleven different regiments and began enlisting as early as September 1861. On July 31, 1862 the town's first war meeting was held at which the selectmen were empowered to pay \$110 to each of ten, three-year volunteers to fill the town's quota. Responding to Congress's adoption of the draft, the town voted to aid the families men who were drafted or who died in service. The federal draft law allowed for the paying of "substitutes," and in June 1864 Monterey appropriated \$2500 to promote recruiting and authorized the payment of a \$250 bounty to substitutes who could be secured to take the place of drafted townsmen.

Among the earliest Monterey recruits

were the thirteen men who joined the Twenty-Seventh Infantry Regiment, Company E, Massachusetts Volunteers in September and October 1861 for three-year stints. Comprised of Western Mas-



John Dooley, pastor of the Monterey Congregational Church from 1898 to 1910.

sachusetts men, the regiment saw action in Virginia, North Carolina and Washington DC before joining the Virginia campaign of 1864 launched by the newly appointed supreme commander of the Union forces, Ulysses S. Grant. During this campaign William Tymeson (18, enlistment age), was killed at Drewry's Bluff and James Thompson (22), and John Hewitt (19), were killed at Cold Harbor, where Union troops suffered dreadful casualties. Three other Monterey men were wounded in action.

The Forty-Ninth Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, comprised of Berkshire Country men, attracted the largest number of Monterey men. In the autumn of 1863, twenty-six men, young and middle-aged, single and married, enlisted for a nine-month stint. Concentrated in Companies F and K, these men

saw action at the 1863 siege and taking of Port Hudson, Louisiana, one of the last Confederate strongholds blocking Union control of the Mississippi. Waldo Fargo (20), a fifer for Company F, Stera Carley (38), and Solomon Dowd (36) were killed in action, while disease, a major killer in the war, took three other men during their return to Berkshire County.

Five of Monterey's African-American residents joined the famous Fifty-Fourth Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, the first black regiment to serve in the United States Army. [The story of the Fifty-Fourth was dramatized in the 1989 film "Glory."] The Fifty-Fourth began to recruit in February 1863 shortly after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The Monterey men, Charles Jackson, 18, Jeremiah Nokes, 42, Charles Swan, 33, Henry Swan, 45, and William Wells, 30, enlisted in November or December that year. The Fifty-Fourth was severely tested and gained acclaim for the valor of its charges on Fort Wagner in South Carolina. The regiment's enlisted men insisted on serving without pay unless they were granted pay equal to

that of white soldiers. In time, they won equal pay. William Wells died of disease in a Beaufort, South Carolina hospital but the other men survived to claim their full military wages.

The difficult war years were followed by economic uncertainty. A major depression from 1873 to 1878 depleted town assets, and even men like Wilbur Langdon felt the squeeze. Langdon died in 1877, nearly bankrupt because he could not or would not collect debts outstanding for merchandise from his store. Although his losses had repercussions throughout the community, the Langdon store survived under the management of his son, Henry. Perhaps because of the hard times, the Congregational Church experienced a vigorous revival during the mid-1870s as did churches in neighboring communities. Seventy-one new

people were admitted to fellowship in 1874 and 1875 alone.

The life of the church gained strength from the organization of local women. After the Civil War era, the women began to establish separate women's organizations as adjuncts to the Congregational Church and other community groups. These organizations not only offered women congenial social opportunities, but trained women in leadership skills such as public speaking, fund raising, and organizational management. One of the first public actions taken by Monterey women was a protest mounted in June 1868 by a group of "Ladies of Monterey" petitioning the selectmen to curtail the sale of intoxicating liquors at the Tryon Hotel, a situation they considered a "great and serious evil."

On their part, Congregational women formed the Ladies' Aid Society which welcomed women from a variety of church backgrounds, the Woman's Missionary Society, and the Young Women's Guild. These organizations became the backbone of the church, raising money for the minister's salary, for repairs to the Meeting House, as well as scholarship funds for a young woman student in India. It was during this period that the tower and side vestibule were added to the building. The members of the Young Women's Guild raised the money to buy a reed organ for the Meeting House in the 1890s.

By the turn of the century, women constituted the majority of the congregation, with 72 out of 103 members. Even with its increased activity, the congregation dwindled along with the population of Monterey as a whole, which fell to 455 by 1900. The church carried on despite its down-sizing, calling a popular new pastor, John Dooley, who came to Monterey in 1898 from doing inner-city mission work in New York City. Dooley served Monterey for twelve years and led the church's celebration of its 150th anniversary in 1900.

Delight Wing Dodyk

[Special thanks to Ray and June Tryon for sharing information about their family and for the use of family photo-

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Twenty-one people have contributed to The Monterey United Church of Christ's capital campaign in memory of Sheldon Fenn. The donations, amounting to more than \$1,000, will be used to form a bank account from which committee members may draw for expenses.

The committee has received expert guidance from Lebanon, New Jersey resi-

dent Bill Hobbey. Hobbey's daughter is an area resident who works for Wayne Dunlop.

Chair Bob Emmel says, "The campaign is about the living, breathing congregation and our work and our lives. What we hope is that in our contacts, in everything that happens, that we'll be seen as a worshipping community, for who we are. We don't want to make the church building into an idol that we must keep as it is. It is the building that has been given to us."

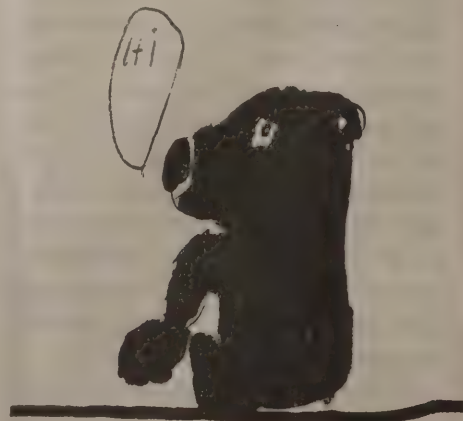
Pledges from committee members already amount to over one quarter of the campaign goal of \$200,000.

NEW MARLBOROUGH/ MONTEREY SCHOOL NEWS

If you were listening to WSBS Education Report on Friday, February 14, you were treated to a first hand account of Shared Discovery day. Teachers and students were both interviewed. Resource teacher Marion Dodds, pointed out that this time is not only a learning experience for the students, but the teachers as well. Second grade teacher, Dan Weston, mentioned how the teachers could build a unit and an activity highlighting each teacher's strengths.

PTA-update: The penny drive is at \$125, and counting, according to Sylvia Eggenberger, PTA president. The PTA is planning an information night regarding the one man/one vote issue. They are also planning a raffle/ice cream social/baseball game night - dates to be announced. A new video camera is to be purchased for NMC thanks to the PTA.

Deborah Mielke



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Fat Tuesday

General madness overtakes the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, in the months, days and weeks preceding Ash Wednesday. The other 47 states don't know a thing about Mardi Gras! Their loss!

You get caught up in the frenzy...fantasy-land. The rules governing civilized behavior are temporarily suspended. Mardi Gras, a time when the common folk rule, and royalty is ridiculed, a time of disguises and masks, of sharing laughter, when the hardness of the world is forgotten in a few wild and wooly days. You wear what you always wanted to look like. You dance. You sing. Everybody...little girls, old women, babies, big strong men...wear tons of beads (thrown to them from the floats of the many parades). Schools are closed.

New Orleans may have the better-known celebration, but Mardi Gras started in Mobile, Alabama in 1703. (The very first Mardi Gras had its roots in ancient civilizations and pagan tradition, celebrating the coming of spring, and in our area, the days prior to Lent and Ash Wednesday). Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras Day, did not make it to New Orleans until 1827.

We, at the place I live, Rainbow Plantation, have a 3-day celebration. Left side of the park put on a gala party at the clubhouse. (This year it is the Wild West theme, rough old codgers and the ladies who won the West.) I wrote the play, put it on: Villain stole the mortgage money from the old father of the fair young maiden (that was ME). The villain would excuse the mortgage if the daughter would become his wife. The daughter was betrothed to another, burst into tears. In the nick of time, the lover found the money.

The second gala party, hosted by the right side of the park had a shoot-off; fierce-looking buffalo crossed the stage as we sang "Home, Home on the Range." We all were served tacos and salsa...and of course cake! "Eat it carefully...Look for the babies in two of the slices. Those two will be Mardi Gras King and Queen." They were bedecked with purple velvet capes, and crowned, and will grace the

thrones all through the Mardi Gras celebration.

The third day was put on by the campers who come here to visit (overnight, by the week and by the month). First a spectacular parade with firetruck, ambulance, floats...passed my house...throwing out goodies. Then 3 hand-crafted small covered wagons served beans, cole slaw, cookies and coffee. Just like Mobile and New Orleans! That night a van of us went up to the charming town of Fairhope, about 15 minutes away, on the way to Mobile, to see the much-touted KOER parade. KOER, a mystic society rolls through the streets of Fairhope, with the theme of "Superstitious Knights," 10 papier-mache floats and 11 marching bands. Leading the parade is the Spirit of New Orleans Jazz Band, followed by a emblem float featuring a raging black stallion running through the surf of Mobile Bay, under the smiling sun of the Easter Shore.

We parked right up close. Opened the window so we could hear the music, drank and ate and watched the parade go by. Most of us HAD to get out, push into the crowd at sidewalk's edge. We all, with shopping bags on our belt, arms upflung, shouted "Moon Pie. Moon Pie"; and "Throw me something, Mister!" Back in the van we showed our loot: doubloons, cups with emblems, Moon Pies (chocolate over marshmallows), and beads beads beads...pearl, long gold, short gold, green, purple (Mardi Gras colors are gold, green and purple), silver, beads with medallions. We were a part of a happy crowd, laughing with the people around us, tickling the babies. More to drink. More to eat, until the police cleared away the barricades so we could go home.

Today is Fat Tuesday. My invitation says: "Welcome Y'all!! Come to the Rainbow Plantation Fat Tuesday Ball, provided by The Staff, the King and Queen's Royal Court, and the Jubilee Band!" I am waiting at my house for guests, to tarry here for awhile, then we all will go over to The Ball. I'm going as a bar-room girl; white boots, short skirt, cowboy hat and strands and strands of beads, from my belt, around my neck, on my hat. A sequin mask, in gold, green

and purple.

This is the last day of this nonsense. Tomorrow back to the work-a-day world. But hasn't it been fun?

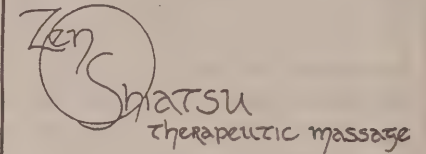
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REP RAP

As the new legislative session gets underway, I am faced with considering the merits of over 4,000 bills and debating a massive budget. As a result, a legislator is faced with making difficult choices on which bills and budget items to support and how to prioritize those items. As always, my priorities have focused on the needs of my constituents and how to make Berkshire County, as well as all of the Commonwealth, a better place to work and live. What follows are some important items that I have worked hard on in the past and I will continue to diligently work on this year to achieve their passage.

Statewide, regional school transportation costs will exceed \$40 million. However, the Governor has again failed to fund this item adequately by allotting only \$29.4 million. The failure to fund school transportation fully has a profound affect on Berkshire County regional school budgets.

For example, the governor's failure to fund school transportation adequately in fiscal year 1994 created a \$317,472 operating loss in the Southern Berkshire Regional School district's transportation budget. Rural communities cannot simply absorb these costs. The school budget will suffer to cover the deficit.

Full funding of regional school transportation is required under Massachusetts law. If the state is going to continue to encourage regionalization of school districts, then we need to honor our legal


and financial obligations to those communities. My past efforts on this matter have come close to passage in the House. I will aggressively seek to ensure the House version of the FY '97 budget includes at least minimum \$40 million necessary to support our school districts. During my tenure as a state representative I have supported funding early intervention programs and projects designed to help new mothers and fathers adjust to the demands of family life. In Berkshire County we are privileged to have many fine support and instructional groups advocate this mission. A bill which is now before the legislature, The Newborn Home Visiting bill, intends to further this goal. The bill establishes a network of trained and supervised parent aides, family advocates, social workers, developmental educators, health professionals, and other volunteers to council parents under the age of 21. Recent research shows that for every three dollars spent on prevention programs, the Commonwealth can expect to save at least six dollars on child welfare services, special education services, medical care, foster care, counseling and housing juvenile offenders.

One of the more considerable measures before the House is a bill I co-sponsored called the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act. This legislation will force HMO's to end their practice of drive-through mastectomies. It will require insurers to provide coverage for a minimum of 48 hours of inpatient care

following mastectomies and at least 24 hours following a lymph node dissection. The HMO's require physicians to send women home and make them change the bag full of blood attached to a catheter inserted in their incision themselves. This policy requires women to treat their own physical wounds caused by mastectomies while simultaneously accepting the emotional scars of this surgery. A patient's psychological health is just as important as their physical recovery, especially in cases of breast cancer where a mastectomy may only be part of the battle. Massachusetts is leading the way in what has become a national issue. President Clinton made this a priority in his State of the Union on address. A bill similar to the measure I have co-sponsored in the Massachusetts House is expected to be filed in the US Congress this month.

A busy session lies ahead and I look forward to standing up for these important issues and for your concerns in Boston. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to call my full-time district office at (413) 243-0289.

Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins



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SENATOR SAYS

Please accept my warmest greetings during this cold time of year. I look forward to serving you in the State Senate, and hope to develop a good working relationship with you and your neighbors. Since taking office in January, I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with many individuals and local officials in Western Massachusetts. One theme that continues to arise is the need to keep the lines of communication open, and to share as much information

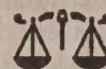
as possible. With this in mind, I will send a regular column to this publication, designed to keep you informed of current issues being discussed in the State House. This column is the first in that regular series. Prescription Drug Assistance for Seniors. On the campaign trail, I heard from many of you about the high cost of prescription medications. I have already had a chance to make a difference for you, voting in favor of a plan to provide prescription drug assistance for qualified senior citizens. When finalized, the bill will provide up to \$500 annually for citizens over 65 whose incomes meet program guidelines. The deadline to apply for assistance will be extended to May 30, but be sure to contact the program as soon as possible. If you would like to be on the list to receive an application form for this program, call 1-800-953-3305 or contact Elder Services. (see story p.2). Other programs are offered directly by drug companies and are available to citi-

zens of all ages. You can receive a guidebook from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Association Hotline which will explain how you can apply for assistance on the specific medications your doctor prescribes. The number for that Hotline is 1-800-762-4636. I hope this information provides relief for many of you who are suffering from the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. Committee Assignments. The Senate President has completed his committee assignments, and I am very happy with his choices. I have been appointed Chairman of the Committee on Election Laws, and have obtained a seat on the Human Services and Elderly Affairs, Local Affairs, and Banking Committees. I am particularly pleased with my assignment to the Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee. This puts me in a good position to support various proposals affecting health care, the needs of disabled citizens and the concerns of older people. Please contact my office to let me know what kinds of programs and services you would like to see! You can't have a Commonwealth without common Health! District Office. My office in Pittsfield is fully-staffed and ready to help individuals and organizations throughout the district. Please feel free to call us at (413) 442-6810 or send mail to 74 North Street, Room 604, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Our fax number is (413) 442-6927.

Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

CHARLES J. FERRIS

Attorney at Law



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PERSONAL NOTES

What a delight to open the November/December '96 issue of Sanctuary (The Journal of the Massachusetts Audubon Society) and find inside "A letter from Monterey: Twentieth Century Life in Housatonic Township No. 1," a proficient and poignant essay authored by our own ex-Monterey News editor, Peter Murkett. The accompanying watercolor illustrations by Joe Baker - "Snowy Hills" and "Lake Garfield" - grace the pages with peace and presence and warmth.

Hats off to the many talented Montereyans who contributed to the success of the 4th Annual Winterfest Celebration, presented by the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce in February. "The Berkshire Hoot," a wonderful gathering of musicians and singers, offered a fine mix of folk, blues, country, gospel, bagpipes, Latin, African, (and more!) and was produced by our own Karl Finger! Truly spirited performances were given by Karl, David Grover, Anson Olds, Tom & Anita Weldon with the Big Waaagh Scratch Band, and ex-Montereyan Vikki True, under the keen supervision of stage manager John Sellew! All proceeds for the evening were donated to the Children's Health Program. The "Smorgasdance" the pre-

vious evening featured Karl Finger as well and Joe Baker and Bonner McAllister with the Mt. Laurel Band.

Bill and Jeanne Zad, long time summer residents of Lake Garfield, left their winter digs in Florida for a trip through the Southwest in January. The highlight of their trip was seeing Monterey friends, Gordon and Evelyn Drescher, and Meyer and Dot Redlich. The Dreschers resided part time on Sylvan Rd. for some 38 years before relocating to Arizona, and the two families shared great joy "raising their kids on Lake Garfield together." They also met up with the Redlichs, also of Sylvan Rd., who live in Scottsdale for four months.

Congratulations to our neighbors at Gould Farm who were selected from thousands of applicants as the subject of a PBS documentary series, "The Visionaires" (see article, p.3).

If you happen to spot Cloud Nine floating around, you will most certainly see Michelle Grotz dancing on top of it! Michelle has just been admitted to the next entering class of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University to be enrolled in August of 1997. Her acceptance in the first round by her top choice school has brought tremendous relief and unequivocal joy to her and to our entire family.

It is also our great pleasure to report the opening of a new business in Boston! Jim Gauthier and Susan Stacy Shanahan, announce the formation of their new Interior Design firm, Gauthier-Stacy Inc., located at 283 Shawmut Ave. It occurs to me that one of the greatest perks of being Personal Notes editor for this paper has

been sharing news about and with our Monterey Kids and their accomplishments!

Kudos to all Monterey students named to the honor roll for the second marking period at Mt. Everett Regional in Sheffield. Earning high honors in Grade Twelve was Jared Thomson, and Shaylan Burkhart, William Conklin, Joseph Kopetchny, Kathryn Kopetchny, Jeffrey Pilot and Noah Wright made honors. In Grade Ten Cedric Mason, and in Grade Nine David Ohman, achieved honors. And, earning high honors in Grade Eight was Katherine Vallianos, with Hannah Bracken and Kimberly Gero achieving honors. And, congratulations to Nicole Raab at Simons Rock, and to Oriana Raab at Skidmore, who both made the Deans List for the fall semester! Keep up the great work, all of you!

Very Happy Birthday wishes this month to Arnold Garber, Graham Quisenberry and Jeremy Vallianos on March 1, to Travis Raab on March 5, to Janet Garber on March 7, to Anne Marie O'Connor on March 8, to Bob Gauthier on March 10, to Valerie Costas and Bonner McAllister on March 13, to Barbara Shea on March 14, to Annabel Edelman on March 17, to Bill Thieriot on March 19, to Carol Lewis Edelman on March 23, to Conrad Morrissey on March 26, to Alf Pedersen and Ellen Pedersen on March 27, to Roma Foreman on March 29, and to Barbara Gauthier, Diana Lazarini and Ray Ward on March 31. And, Happy Anniversary to Jerry and Giuliana Raab on March 9 and to Randy and Adrienne Gelfbard on March 13. We enjoy receiving your notes and birthday greetings, etc...Please give me a call at 528-4519 if you have news you would like to share, or jot those items down and drop them in the mail to me, just Rte. 23! Thanks in advance!

Stephanie Grotz

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THE OBSERVER - JANUARY

When we recorded the weather a month ago, we were looking back at a cloudy, wet, warm December on a bright, cold, January day with snow on the ground. This time we note our statistics after coming in from an evening walk in mid-February during which the sound of a warm breeze combing the bare trees was like that of ocean surf. The light snow cover was lit by a big, waxing moon shining where altocumulus clouds had broken into waves and disappeared. It was a brief winter interlude with tropical overtones, a typical treat of February weather in New England. The month just past had milder temperatures than the average January, a fifth of the snowfall we experienced a year ago, and slightly less than a third of the rain and total precipitation in January, 1996. The characteristic snowstorm of this winter invariably ends as rain. It is certainly an open winter compared with last year.

High temp. (1/5).....	48°
Low temp. (1/19).....	-8°
Wind-chilled low temp. (1/18&19).....	-42°
Avg. high temp.	29.2°
Avg. low temp.	14.1°
Avg. temp.	22°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	20.4°
Precip. occ.	16 days
Rainfall	2.33"
Snowfall	11"
Total precip.	3.66"
Monthly norm. (Pitts.)	3.08"
High bar. press. (1/27)	30.51"
Low bar. press. (1/10).....	29.09"
High wind gust (1/8)	48 mph

Matthew Curtin



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DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE CAUCUS

The Monterey Democratic Town Committee will caucus Saturday, March 8 at 2 pm at the Monterey Firehouse, to elect delegates to the Democratic State Convention. All registered Democrats in Monterey interested in participating are welcome. Candidates must be present.

At the completion of this business the meeting will be formally closed. A second meeting will be convened at 2:45 pm for the purpose of nominations for town offices.

Nicky Hearon, Democratic Town Committee Secretary 528-5614
GRANGE NEWS

The theme of the Feb. meeting was patriotic. The Grange will have a display at the Monterey Post Office, as well as a unit in the Memorial Day Parade. Myrtle Mercier from Stockbridge Grange was voted in as an affiliated member. The March 19 meeting will be a combined St. Patrick and women's activity. Members are asked to bring articles for a fundraiser to benefit the deaf program.

CALENDAR

Sundays, AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.
Tuesday, March 18. Free blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m. in the basement room of the Monterey Grange (town offices), Main Road.
Wednesday, March 19. Meeting of the Monterey Grange No. 291, 8 p.m. at the Grange Hall.
Wednesday, March 19. Meeting of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District, 7 p.m. in the church basement.
Saturday, March 22, Maple Sugar Moon Square and Contradance Party at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, 8-12 p.m. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker, with guest caller Sarah Gregory Smith of Salem, MA. Special halftime entertainment by Brian MacGregor and the Ivy Vine Players. Home-made refreshments included in the price of admission. All dances taught, beginners and children welcome. Adults \$8, children \$3. For info, 413-528-9385/518-329-7578.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Bonner McAllester, p. 14, Amanda and Shelby Mathieu, p. 12, Katie Olds, p. 18.

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